

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of constructing a reinforced soil arch comprising constructing an arch utilizing a combination of layers of compacted mineral soil and reinforcement
5 in a manner that supports both the dead load of the structure and the live load imposed on the structure.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein an archway form is installed for initially supporting the combination of compacted soil and reinforcement.
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3. A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the archway form is connected to the compacted soil and reinforcement.
4. A method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the archway form is connected to
15 the compacted soil and reinforcement by wire mesh, bars, or connection members so that the archway form moves with the reinforced soil.
5. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the reinforcement consists of geosynthetic, plastic, metal, wood or like materials.
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6. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the arch shape may be in the form of a reentrant arch, a vertical or horizontal ellipse, a pear or box-shaped structure, or a curved overpass or underpass structure.
- 25 7. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the form is installed on a temporary footing and the reinforced soil arch cooperates with the temporary footing.
8. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the form is installed on an elastic footing and the reinforced soil arch cooperates with the elastic footing.
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9. A method as claimed in claim 1 where the soil reinforcement is connected to the form.
10. A method as claimed in claim 1 where the soil reinforcement is not con-
35 nected to the form.

11. A reinforced soil arch constructed of a combination of soil and reinforcements.
12. A reinforced soil arch as claimed in claim 11 wherein the reinforcement
5 consists of geosynthetic, plastic, metal, wood or like materials.
13. A reinforced soil arch as claimed in claim 11 wherein the arch shape may be in the form of a reentrant arch, a vertical or horizontal ellipse, a pear or box-shaped structure, or a curved overpass or underpass structure.
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14. A reinforced soil arch as claimed in claim 11 wherein the form is installed on a temporary footing and the reinforced soil arch cooperates with the temporary footing.
- 15 15. A reinforced soil arch as claimed in claim 11 where the form is installed on an elastic footing.
16. A reinforced soil arch as claimed in claim 11 where the soil reinforcement is connected to the form.
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17. A reinforced soil arch as claimed in claim 11 where the soil reinforcement is not connected to the form.
18. A reinforced soil arch as claimed in claim 11 wherein the soil and reinforcements are arranged as a combination of layers of compacted mineral soil and
25 reinforcement.